

### REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-16 and 18-26 are pending. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 16 has been amended and claim 26 has been newly added. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 16-18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawa (U.S. Patent 5,717,839). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "data correction means for correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus and for outputting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus." According to the invention claimed in claim 1, the image correcting device outputs the corrected data and, then, the image forming apparatus forms the image based on the corrected data received from the image correcting device.

Ichikawa discloses a device in which image correction is carried out by the printer. As disclosed in Ichikawa, the control unit 13 communicates with the printer 12 through the I/F 20. The control unit captures information about the printer type from the printer. Thereafter, a "combination" of a type of electronic camera and a type of printer is determined. The user then sets the printing conditions. Based on these set printing conditions, correction table data, which corresponds to the printer-camera combination already determined, are sent to the printer (see col. 9, line 48 through col. 10, line 11). The printer stores the correction table data into memory. This correction table data is used by the printer to correct the image, which is then printed by the printer.

In the device of claim 1, the image is corrected before it is sent to the printer, so that the printer acts directly on the corrected image data sent to the printer. As stated above, in Ichikawa, the information sent to the printer includes correction table data, which corresponds to the combination of the camera type and the printer type and does not include the corrected image data. The printer must use the correction table data to correct the image before it is printed. Accordingly, the features of claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested by Ichikawa.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite "a data correction control program for correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus and transmitting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus when image formation is executed." Therefore, claim 16 is allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. Claim 21 also recites "outputting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus" and is allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. The remaining rejected claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 are allowable at least due to their dependency from claim 1.

Claim 11 recites "wherein the single data processing device handles image correction for the plurality of image readers and the plurality of image forming apparatuses." In other words, the image data is corrected before it is sent to the printer. Ichikawa does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, the features of claim 11 are neither taught nor suggested by Ichikawa. Claim 12 recites a similar feature and is therefore allowable in light of the foregoing reasons.

Claims 13-15 are allowable at least due to their dependency from claim 12. Therefore, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa (U.S. Patent 5,717,839) and further in view of Harrington (U.S. Patent 6,178,007). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

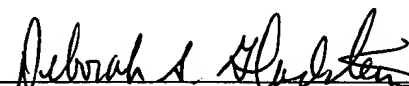
Claims 7, 19 and 23 are all dependent claims. As stated above, the features of the independent claims of this application are not taught or suggested by Ichikawa. Harrington also fails to teach or suggest the patentable features of the independent claims of this application, such as correcting the image data before it is sent to the printer. Further, Harrington is not being relied upon for teaching this feature. Therefore, the features of claims 7, 19 and 23 are neither taught nor suggested by Ichikawa, Harrington, or a combination thereof. Therefore, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by this amendment, captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 325772007400.

Dated: July 30, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Amended) A storage medium for storing program software of an image correction device used in an image forming system connectable to a plurality of image readers and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein the storage medium stores a storage program including correction data relating to specific combinations of the plurality of image readers and the plurality of image forming apparatuses and a data correction control program for correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus and transmitting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus when image formation is executed.